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Spain

Biotechnology

Update

2007

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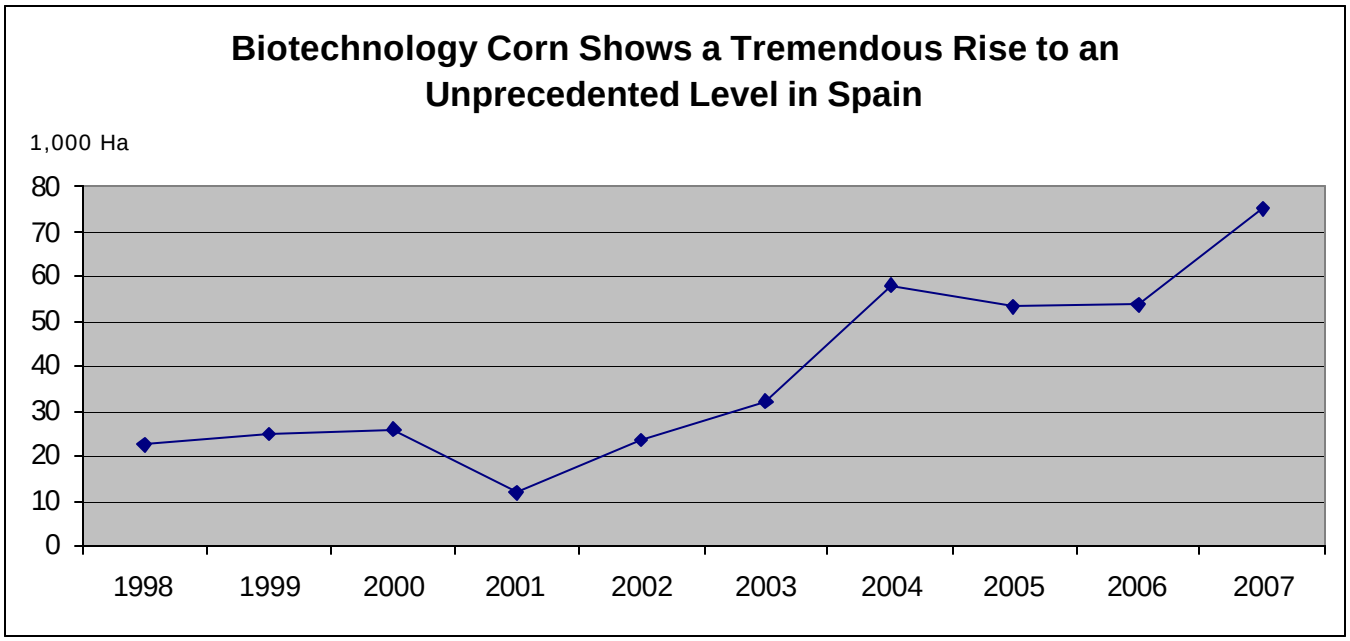
Report Highlights:
Spanish corn farmers increased biotechnology corn plantings during marketing year 2007 at a near record-setting pace, while total corn planted increased (first time in recent history) ever so slightly. Farmers in regions with known infestations of the very destructive corn borer increasingly planted biotechnology corn, while corn farmers in regions where infestations are more inconsistent (weather dependent) also chose biotechnology as a means of minimizing risk, increasing productivity and corn quality, reducing their environmental footprint, and maximizing profit.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Madrid [SP1]
[SP]

Spanish farmers increased plantings of biotechnology corn, continuing a ten-year upward trend. The most recent statistics (July 2007) from the Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA) cite a 40 percent increase in biotechnology corn planted during marketing year (MY) 2007 over MY 2006, an increase from 53,667 hectares to about 75,000 hectares. Spanish corn farmer's biotechnology corn planting now accounts for about 20 percent of the total corn planted, up from 15 percent in MY 2006.

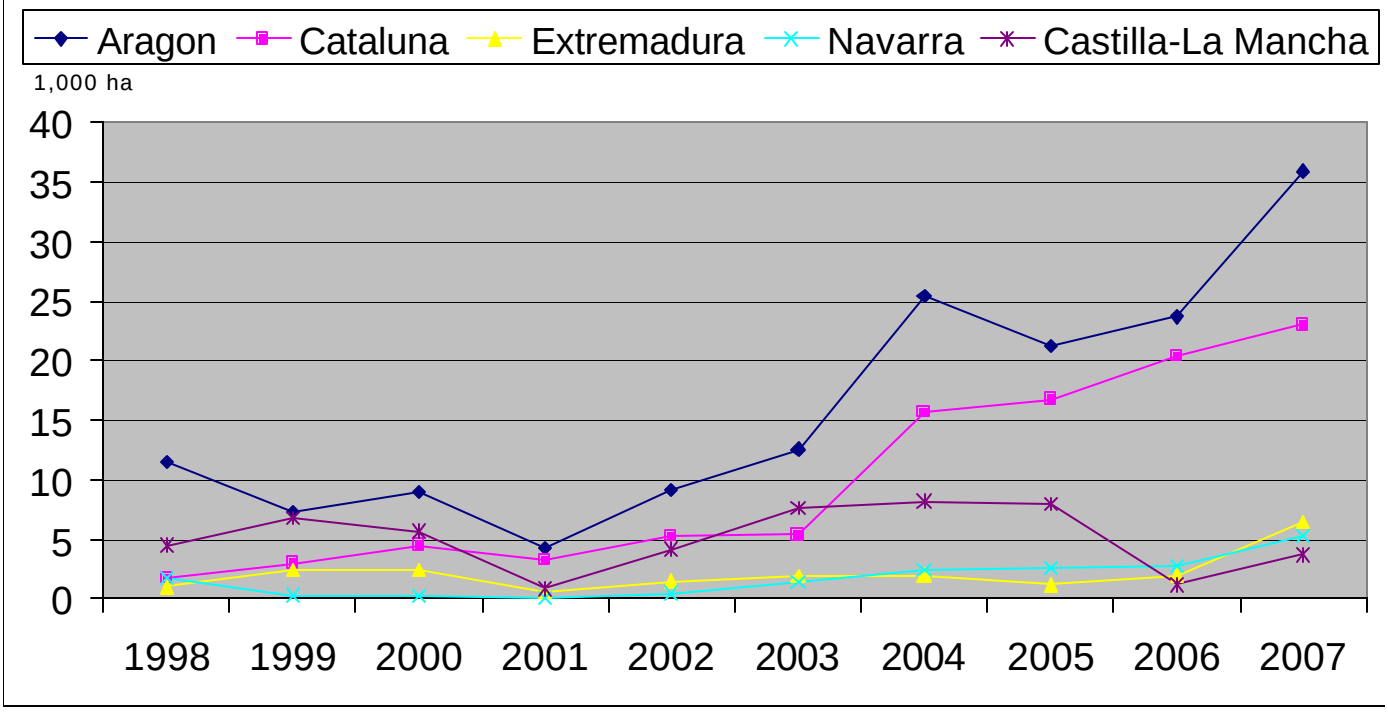
The last time Spanish farmers increased biotechnology corn plantings at such an impressive rate was in MY 2004 after the Government of Spain (GOS) approved nine new biotechnology varieties (total 16), giving farmers an expanded seed supply. At the beginning of MY 2007, Spanish farmers could choose from 42 varieties, an additional and important factor in planting decisions.



Source: MAPA

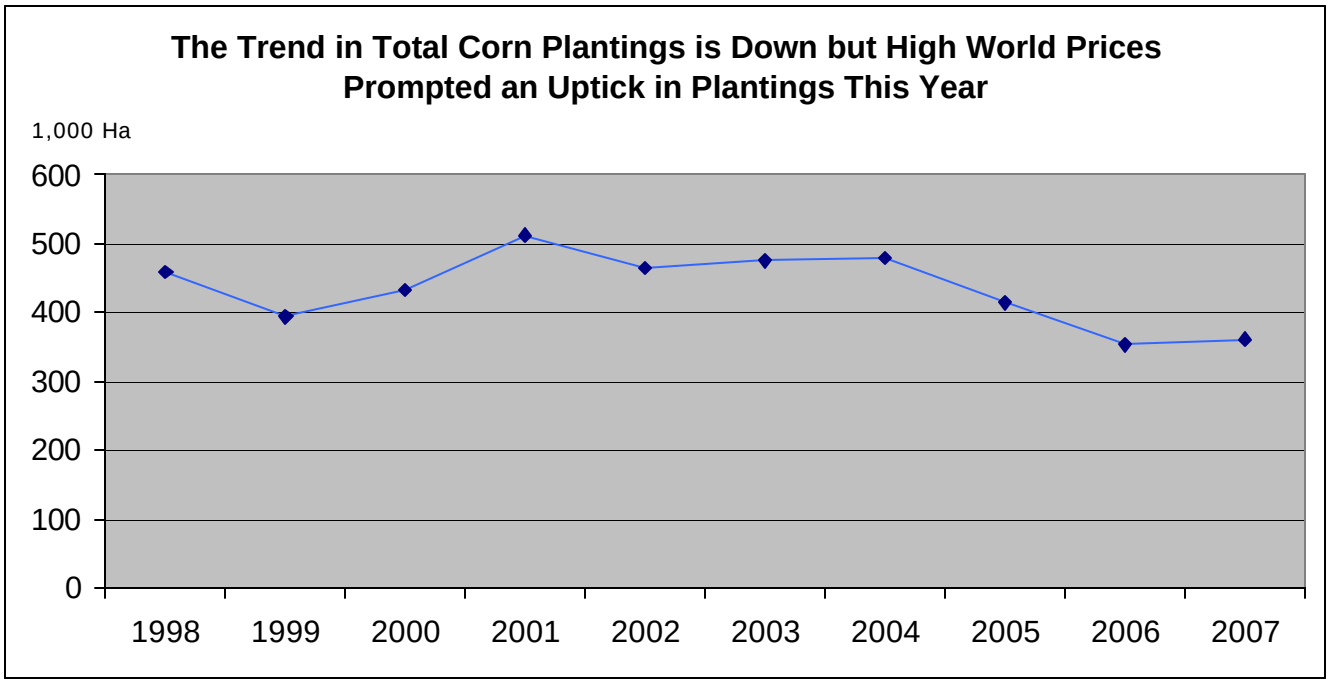
In addition, because the summer of MY 2006 was hot, the prevalence/manifestation of the corn borer increased substantially in all susceptible corn growing regions, prompting farmers to shift ever more production to biotechnology corn. Even in some of the regions like Navarra and Extremadura, not normally expected to have significant problems corn-borer damage, farmers planted biotechnology corn in MY 2007.

Farmers in Autonomous Communities Most Affected by Corn Borer Infestations are Increasing Biotechnology Corn Plantings at a Very Fast Pace



Source: MAPA, Monsanto

During MY 2007, Spanish farmers planted about two percent more corn than in MY 2006, the first increase during the last four years. They appear to have responded to high world and domestic corn prices, and a relatively more secure irrigation-water supply. The drought conditions of MY 2004 and 2005 broke in late MY 2005, thus providing growers more confidence that they would be able to benefit from their initial springtime investment.



Source: MAPA